

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

March 12, 2019

GABRIELLE D'ADAMO SINGER, STAFF DIRECTOR  
DAVID M. WEINBERG, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

Mr. Thomas E. Brandon  
Deputy Director  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives  
99 New York Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20226

Dear Deputy Director Brandon:

We write to request information regarding the alleged theft of approximately 600 firearm parts from an ATF facility in Martinsburg, West Virginia.

It is our understanding that the Martinsburg facility, which is charged with the destruction of weapons no longer needed for ATF personnel, received an influx of firearms after the ATF decided to change its standard-issue service weapons.<sup>1</sup> According to certain sources and news reporting,<sup>2</sup> a security guard at the facility stole approximately 600 firearm parts. This security guard then sold these firearm parts, valued roughly in excess of \$70,000, through the internet.

We respectfully ask that your office provide the following information:

1. Please list and describe all firearms or firearm parts stolen from the ATF Martinsburg facility as part of this incident.
2. Please identify all individuals associated with this incident.
  - a. For each individual, please provide their name, title/s, years of service with or for ATF, and a list of all prior assignments within ATF/Department of Justice.
3. Did ATF perform a vault inventory due to this incident? If yes, what was the result?
4. Has ATF recovered the property stolen in this incident? If so, please provide the inventory of what was recovered. If not, how does ATF plan to recover the stolen property?
5. Did ATF track and produce an accounting of what gun parts were sold and to whom they were sold? If so, please provide the accounting.

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<sup>1</sup> It is not clear whether the alleged thefts occurred at ATF's Firearms and Ammunition Destruction Branch and/or Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division.

<sup>2</sup> Kelsie LeRose, *Records: Man arrested for stealing firearms from ATF facility*, The Journal, Mar. 6, 2019, [https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/records-man-arrested-for-stealing-firearms-from-atf-facility/article\\_da01bf26-2fe9-55f8-9b3e-060e22264bfd.html](https://www.journal-news.net/journal-news/records-man-arrested-for-stealing-firearms-from-atf-facility/article_da01bf26-2fe9-55f8-9b3e-060e22264bfd.html)

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6. Has any of the stolen property been utilized in any crimes?
7. How did ATF first learn of the theft of firearms or firearm parts in this incident?
8. When did ATF leadership become aware of this incident?
  - a. How was this incident reported up the chain of command at the Martinsburg facility?
  - b. Was this information reported to anyone at ATF headquarters? If so, who?
  - c. What actions, if any, has ATF leadership taken since learning about any reported theft?
9. Please describe any other incidents of theft of firearms or firearm parts from the ATF Martinsburg facility for the past three years. If any occurred, please provide answers to the above questions for each incident.

Please provide these materials as soon as possible, but no later than March 26, 2019.

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized by Rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate to investigate “the efficiency, economy, and effectiveness of all agencies and departments of the Government.”<sup>3</sup> Additionally, Senate Resolution 70 (116th Congress) authorizes the Committee to investigate “the efficiency and economy of operations of all branches of the Government including the possible existence of fraud, misfeasance, malfeasance, collusion, mismanagement, incompetence, corruption or unethical practices[.]”<sup>4</sup>

If you have any questions about this request, please contact Brian Downey of Chairman Johnson’s staff at (202) 224-4751 and Roy Awabdeh of Ranking Member Peters’ staff at (202) 224-2627. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman



Gary Peters  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Michael E. Horowitz  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Justice

<sup>3</sup> S. Rule XXV(k)(2)(B); *see also* S. Res. 445, 108th Cong. (2004).

<sup>4</sup> S. Res. 70, 116th Cong. § 12(e)(1)(A) (2019) (enacted).